4: Burgess E-4, 5 (1926-1927) 1928 AF12 North China AF12

neighboring countries. The subject was not considered beneath the notice of the earliest philosophers, and Confucius on several occasions gave utterance to his views on the matter.[1]

There are many scattered references to the guilds in works on China published during the nineteenth century. The principal ones, however, have to do with the relations of foreign traders with guilds unlike the type discussed in this study, namely, what Morse terms the Guild Merchants. The dealings of traders of various countries with an organization of this nature known as the *Co-Hong* of Canton are discussed in great detail by Morse, Auber, and other writers on Chinese commercial history. As this type of guild is not included in this survey, it need not be discussed further.

But there are also references to the guilds of the type we are studying. Peter Auber, in his well-known work *China*, gives an interesting sidelight on the early effects of trade on the guilds. This note is dated 1831:

> In two districts in the immediate vicinity of Canton, and in another about twenty miles distant from it, very serious commotions have taken place among the natives at the introduction of cotton yarn. They loudly complain that it has deprived their women and children, who had previously been employed in the spinning of thread, of the means of subsistence. They have resolved not to employ the cotton yarn in the looms and have expressed their determination to burn any of it which may be brought to their villages.[2]

Morse also mentions struggles between the Chinese merchants and the foreign traders, and shows the solidarity of guild action in resistance to measures contrary to their interests. His note on the Tea Guild at Hankow illustrates this point:

[1] Douglas, *op. cit.*, p. 141.

[2] Auber, *China: an Outline of its Government, Laws and Policy* (London, 1834), p. 64.